













## THE CONSTITUTION.

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## THE SUNDAY CONSTITUTION

SENT TO ANY ADDRESS!  
 ATLANTA, GA., MARCH 11, 1889.

## Questions of Grammar.

A correspondent, writing from Thomaston, in this state, sends us the following communication, which, as it seems to be seriously put, we give as it was written:

MEANS: Editors: An admirer of the patriotic nonchalance with which THE CONSTITUTION spreads the English language over its interesting pages wishes to know if each, or either, or neither of the following sentences meet its imperial approval from a grammatical standpoint. It is hardly necessary to say that they were printed in Sunday's CONSTITUTION, and are extracted from 8 major, 10 beautiful and pathetic eulogies of his dead congressional associate, James Nelson Burnes.

"While pleasure wanders restlessly through the corridors of the captured, he is not best content to sit in the gallery or stand at the gates eager (like the dying Elizabeth) to exchange millions of money for that of time which success or failure, wealth or poverty, honor or obloquy, do not touch. \* \* \* The man who ranks not station nor prerogative in the republic of the grave. \* \* \* Neither veneration or reverence are due the dead, if they are but dust." \* \* \*

Now that the grammar editor is supposed to be giving heed, your correspondent will submit an original linguistic query illustrated in the same manner from which the given examples are quoted. Usage or grammar or idiom or whatever you may term it, permits the employment of different forms of the verb with "if" and similar conjunctions, as, for example, we may say, "If it be the end, if the life of Burnes terminate upon this tank and shroud of time" etc., or we may say with equal idiomatic accuracy, "If the life of Burnes is a taper that is burned out" etc. Now to the question. Does not the comma in the first sentence, which is a comma of time, require the individual to conform exclusively to one or the other of these modes of expression, at least throughout the same article or discourse? Is it not better to treat such matters too flippancy, as unworthy the consideration of masculine intellect, since the professional standing of thousands depends upon their capacity to answer just such questions; and if we cannot appeal for information to the great journals of the day, that justly plume themselves on the impetus they have given to mental and material progress, where can wisdom be found to the shepherd, tell me when?

Our correspondent is apparently pestered by some errors in a telegraphic dispatch, and it is a matter not worth pestering about. As has been shown thousands of times, grammatical accuracy is neither necessary nor desirable. Those who think differently should get a copy of "Gulliver's Travels," with footnotes by Sheridan. This will satisfy any sane person as to the offices of grammar, so-called.

Our correspondent makes the mistake of supposing that verbal inaccuracies have some relation to English grammar. We advise him to read William Cobbett's letters to his son James. These letters not only make the only English grammar we have worthy of the name, but the common sense at the bottom of them is worth studying for its own sake. There is no grammar of the English tongue worth more than a moment's notice, for the simple reason that English idioms refuse to conform themselves to the Latin plan on which the so-called English grammars are based. The only trustworthy grammar of our language is to be found embodied in its literature, and the teacher who makes that literature his text-book is sure to turn out good writers and speakers.

Take, for instance, the letter of our correspondent given above. The very first sentence in his interesting communication is ungrammatical from the point of view of a pedagogue. He wants "to know if each, or either, or neither of the following sentences meet its imperial approval," meaning the approval of THE CONSTITUTION. Well, we are not particular about English grammar as it is taught in books, but if the books are to be believed, the foregoing remark of our correspondent is ungrammatical—just where or how we leave him to discover. If one error in grammar is important, another is equally so, and as our correspondent appears to be mixed, the most we can do today is to call his attention to the fact. When he corrects himself it will be time enough for him to undertake to correct other people.

## Train Robbing in the West.

In the good old times, when a traveler took a journey in a stage coach, he carried pistols ready for immediate use, and was on the lookout for highwaymen all along the road.

But our modern robbers do not care to bother with small matters. A stage is safe enough, except down in Mexico, where it is a common thing for a few dashing knights of the road to stop a coach and strip the passengers, leaving them to make their way to the next town attired in a stray copy of the New York Herald. In this civilized country, however, the Dick Turpins of the present day have their minds directed to bigger things. They will be satisfied with nothing smaller than a railway passenger train.

The recent action of the Arizona legislature in imposing the penalty of death for train robbery has brought this nuisance prominently before the public.

In a review of the situation the New York Herald enumerates more than twenty train robberies within the past three years. These robberies all occurred in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, the Indian territory, Ohio, Arkansas, Arizona and Illinois, but most of them occurred in Texas. The robbers at different times secured \$60,000, \$40,000, \$30,000, \$25,000 and \$15,000. More than half a dozen train men have lost their lives in these encounters.

In the majority of the cases mentioned the train robbers escaped unhurt, and were never captured. Generally the number of robbers is small. It is rare for a gang to be composed of more than six men. They take a train by surprise in an out of the way place, and go through it in perhaps two minutes. When pistols fail to intimidate, the bold marauders have more than once produced dynamite cartridges. The prospect of being blown up induces the bravest men to surrender.

Under the circumstances the Arizona lawmakers acted wisely. It is of the highest importance that travel should be made as safe as possible. The masked men who attack trains would not hesitate to murder the passengers if they thought it necessary, and there is no reason why we should let

them off with a light penalty. Hanging is the best punishment for them, and the law should sanction it in every state where they show themselves.

## The Cotton Movement.

The New York Financial Chronicle says that rail shipments during last month have been very free, and are largely in excess of the movement during February of earlier years. The month's gross has been 150,843 bales, against 100,315 bales in 1888 and 112,050 bales in 1887. For the season to date the total is now greater than heretofore recorded during any similar period, and compared with the aggregate for last year, which until now has been unsurpassed, the gain reaches 37,122 bales. The net movement during the month has also been heavy, reaching 90,402 bales, against about 50,000 bales last year. The net for the six months ending 1887-88, 1888-89, 1889-90, 1890-91, 1891-92, 1892-93, 1893-94, 1894-95, 1895-96, 1896-97, 1897-98, 1898-99, 1899-00, 1900-01, 1901-02, 1902-03, 1903-04, 1904-05, 1905-06, 1906-07, 1907-08, 1908-09, 1909-10, 1910-11, 1911-12, 1912-13, 1913-14, 1914-15, 1915-16, 1916-17, 1917-18, 1918-19, 1919-20, 1920-21, 1921-22, 1922-23, 1923-24, 1924-25, 1925-26, 1926-27, 1927-28, 1928-29, 1929-30, 1930-31, 1931-32, 1932-33, 1933-34, 1934-35, 1935-36, 1936-37, 1937-38, 1938-39, 1939-40, 1940-41, 1941-42, 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45, 1945-46, 1946-47, 1947-48, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66, 1966-67, 1967-68, 1968-69, 1969-70, 1970-71, 1971-72, 1972-73, 1973-74, 1974-75, 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78, 1978-79, 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94, 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## FIGHTING OVER BLOOD.

THE MOMENTOUS QUESTION OF HOW MANY GRANDFATHERS

What is stirring up the Blue-Bloods of the Metropolis—Cleveland Now an Everyday Citizen.

Special Correspondence The Constitution.

NEW YORK, March 8.—A short, beefy man, arrayed in a black Prince Albert suit, a little the worse for the wine that was upon it, and a silk hat which was a little the worse for the shine it lacked, drove down from the Victoria hotel the other day and entered a rather attractive law office.

Over the door of that office appeared the name of C. Cleveland.

It was C. Cleveland himself, the man who but the day before held the loftiest place which the world knows. Today he has laid aside his robes of state by request—and is a private citizen.

That is a picture of what political writers may paint and from which they may draw lessons of value. Not being a political writer, I can only cite this as still another instance of what happens to a man who allows his head to grow out of all proportion to his brains. It might have been—

But we all might have been what we are not were we not in Cleveland, but he is no longer at the head of this government, but they have succeeded in squeezing into the sacred precincts about which Ward McAllister draws his awful circle. That is, Mr. Cleveland has found a place in the Four Hundred, and he is supposed to be a member of it.

It is a story of New England country life, a succession of sketches true to nature and, therefore, absolutely true to the life. The central figure is his Miss Abigail Frue. He is the best thing he has done. He has all the little touches that go to make up a perfect character—one whose quaintness will make it the rival for popularity of old Joshua Whitcomb.

The Maggie Mitchell divorce case has occupied a good deal of newspaper space, but just why I don't know, unless it is the desire to learn the true age of this highly respectable southerner. The latest figures place that age at fifty-seven, a good ripe age for a southerner.

The husband from whom she seeks separation is named Paddock. He is a New York real estate agent and, judging by his wife's charges, a gay and festive one. A letter in Cleveland, Ohio, which Maggie didn't know him.

Would such a splurge be made over this if Maggie were not on the stage?

MAX WELTON.

Ward McAllister and the other members of the committee have been coddling their brains with this horrid question. The abstract question involved is whether a lady will be a prominent part in a quadrille because of her own family and her long and honorable ancestry, or because of the blood that flows in her husband's veins. In its present stage the question seems to have been decided by the committee in favor of the husband's pedigree.

It was a year ago that George Gould had married Edith Kingston that Postmaster went Virginia Droher for his wife. They went to England immediately after the marriage and have just returned on a visit. They will stay here for some little time, and go on to Louisville to see the Postmaster's people who are all Kentuckians. Everybody, of course, regards Postmaster as an extremely fortunate fellow in capturing a bride who had previously captured a man of great wealth and admiration as an actress. He seems to be a good fellow and certainly has been fortunate, for his speculations in the stock market have resulted in a decidedly respectable size.

And all about one little dance. Isn't it funny—the spectacle of those citizens who are equal fighting over a question of this kind? Their grandfathers.

Who were they?

The young Englishman who distinguished himself by marrying Virginia Droher, of the Daily Constitution.

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Thomas G. Seabrook, who will be remembered as the General Knickerbocker of "The Little Tycoon," and Eugene Canfield who was one of the Rats of "A Tin Soldier."

Horny Lee's production of "The Cavalier" was hardly the success that was anticipated. The play, by D'Emery, is essentially a masterpiece of the French class, and while it gives Mr. Lee another opportunity to display his ability as a dramatic actor, it does not seem to have given him any other opportunity. The Cavalier is confined in a dungeon in the castle, but is able by means of a secret underground passage, to escape to the authorities, to make his way out into the city and there, by means of different disguises, he carries on his adventures.

Mr. Lee in this role assumes no less than five disguises. He was received with decided favor but for some reason or other the play didn't seem to take as well as expected.

Tillson's new play, "The Lives," is of the lurid order. It caught the fancy of Niblo's audience and enabled Mande Granger and Dan Collier to make successful appearances.

"The Old Homestead" has a rival at last. It comes as "The Country Fair," and opened at the Grand Theatre, on Twenty-third street, on Tuesday night.

It is a story of New England country life, a succession of sketches true to nature and, therefore, absolutely true to the life. The central figure is his Miss Abigail Frue. He is the best thing he has done. He has all the little touches that go to make up a perfect character—one whose quaintness will make it the rival for popularity of old Joshua Whitcomb.

The Maggie Mitchell divorce case has occupied a good deal of newspaper space, but just why I don't know, unless it is the desire to learn the true age of this highly respectable southerner. The latest figures place that age at fifty-seven, a good ripe age for a southerner.

The husband from whom she seeks separation is named Paddock. He is a New York real estate agent and, judging by his wife's charges, a gay and festive one. A letter in Cleveland, Ohio, which Maggie didn't know him.

Would such a splurge be made over this if Maggie were not on the stage?

MAX WELTON.

Ward McAllister and the other members of the committee have been coddling their brains with this horrid question. The abstract question involved is whether a lady will be a prominent part in a quadrille because of her own family and her long and honorable ancestry, or because of the blood that flows in her husband's veins. In its present stage the question seems to have been decided by the committee in favor of the husband's pedigree.

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## WHAT HOVER SAYS.

HE TALKS ABOUT HIS WORK AMONG THE NEGROES.

HE SAYS HE IS NO ANARCHIST

Hover, who has been creating a small sensation by preaching Co-operation to the Negroes of the South, writes a Card-His System, He says, Has Been Tried for Years.

Hover says he's no anarchist. "Anarchy? What is anarchy?" he asked. "Anarchy means the abolition of government. I don't preach anarchy. The system under which the Co-Operative Workers of America is run has been in operation in this country for one hundred and one years."

"Where was that?" "At Mount Lebanon, New York. It is a Shaker community where I was raised. That there has been no great spread of the co-operation is due to the fact that there the system is hemmed in by life-bound religion. We have the same system and it is successful here."

Hover is "Grand, Worthy Sage of the Co-Operative Workers of America."

"That means the head of the whole concern."

"Yes. The head of it all. I have devoted my time to the order having looked into every aspect of it, and know the exact size of the order, as that changes every week to the extent of several thousands. The general southern headquarters are at Hickory, N. C."

Hover feels aggrieved at the story about his stay in Atlanta which appeared in yesterday's Constitution. He writes the following in reply:

ATLANTA, Ga., March 10.—To the editor of the Constitution: I am sorry that you will allow me to give a permit for me to do, and to do, the exact size of the order, as that changes every week to the extent of several thousands. The general southern headquarters are at Hickory, N. C."

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commodate the thing that exploded under his chair.

As a leaper on short notice, however, Hover takes the cake, including the icing.

Myra Goodwin.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat thus notices the popularity and success of the fair lady:

"Myra Goodwin is fast becoming a favorite. She has the essentials for a popular actress, being young, handsome and full of genuine merit. She began a week's engagement at the People's theatre last night, and on an overflowing audience, and made a full and complete success. All the members of











